

GUIDING QUESTIONS for:

The Hobbit

For each encounter or destination, explain why/how Bilbo and the dwarves find themselves in this setting, the challenges they must face, how they manage to overcome each challenge, and the principal characters involved. Make note of Bilbo's character at each stage of the journey. What flaw(s) or strength(s) does he display in each setting? How has his character developed since the previous entry?

Entry #1: Trolls and Cave

Entry #2: Rivendell: Elrond

Entry #3: Misty Mountains: Goblins and Gollum

Entry #4: Mirkwood: Spiders

Entry #5: Mirkwood: Wood-elves

Entry #6: Lake-town and Lonely Mountain: Smaug and the Lake-men

Entry #7: Lonely Mountain: The Battle of the Five Armies

Entry #8: What does the novel suggest about the nature of heroism? Which characters emerge as heroes and why? How is Bilbo a hero even though he does not engage in the climactic battle?

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Note the significances of the settings in which Huck finds himself throughout his adventures; what conflicts does he face in each of these environments, what dimensions of his character are revealed via these specific settings, what does he learn through these encounters, etc.

Entry #1: St. Petersburg; Entry #2: Jackson Island; Entry #3: The Mississippi River; Entry#4: Tennessee-- the Grangerfords; Entry #5: Arkansas—"The Duke" and "the King"; Entry #6: Colonel Sherburne and/or the Circus; Entry#7: The Wilks' Funeral; Entry #8: The Phelps' Farm

The Iliad

Entry #1: The first eight lines of Book 1 are an invocation of the Muse to inspire the poetry, and to announce the whole poem's theme. Where do you see examples of rage in Book One? What are some things Homer seems to be suggesting about rage?

Entry #2. How is Paris characterized in contrast with Hector? How is Paris characterized in contrast with Menelaus?

Entry #3. Is the scene of Hector at home with Andromache and Astyanax important? How, or why not? What role does its context (of war scenes) play in establishing its importance?

Entry #4. What role(s) do the gods play in human lives, according to Homer?

Entry #5. Evaluate the friendship of Patroclus and Achilles. What parts of their friendship seem healthy or admirable to you? What parts seem dangerous? What parts seem weird?

Entry #6. Why do you think Homer includes a four-and-a-half page description of Achilles' shield?

Entry #7. Characterize each of the two major characters in Book 24 (Achilles and Priam) in their interaction with each other.

Entry #8. Where do you see example of rage in the Iliad overall? Do you detect any patterns in these examples? Does the theme grow or change over the course of the poem? What does Homer seem to be saying about rage?

Brave New World

Entry #1: How is the Novel framed by the Point of View established in the opening chapter?

Entry #2: Note the introduction of the Lenina Crowne character; why does she stand out? What significance does this standing out hold?

Entry #3: How is the World State society characterized by the Solidarity Service dramatized in chapter 5?

Entry #4: How is the Savage Reservation characterized by Tribal Sacrifice dramatized in chapter 7?

Entry #5: Foil Helmholtz Watson and Bernard Marx.

Entry #6: Triangulate Helmholtz and Bernard with John "the Savage; whom is he more like? Support

Entry #7: Explain the significance of John's rage in response to Lenina? In response to Linda?

Entry #8: What does the final image of the novel ultimately suggest about John? The World State? The relationship between the two?